



Marin Master Gardeners 2011 Training Program Information



The Purpose of the Master Gardener Training Program is to train volunteers to provide horticultural education and service to the residents of Marin County for the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). The Master Gardener Training and the Marin Master Gardener program are operated by Master Gardener volunteers with the support of the UCCE- Marin Office and the County of Marin.

The 2011 Training Course

1. To be accepted as a Trainee you must agree to complete by March 31 2012:
 - a. 50 volunteer service hours (including 18 hours working at the Master Gardener Help Desk at the Novato Office on weekdays during the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.)
 - b. 12 hours of Continuing Education in addition to the training class; 4 of the 12 hours must be UCCE/MMG sponsored.
To remain a certified Master Gardener, a minimum of 25 hours of volunteer work and 12 hours of Continuing Education are required each year.
2. During the training program it is of primary importance that you attend **all** training classes.
 - a. The classes will be held on Thursdays, beginning on January 6, 2011 and continuing through graduation on May 5, 2011.
 - b. The classes meet once a week from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The class locations vary week by week, with the primary locations being the Livermore Room at the Marin Art and Garden Center in Ross and the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus. Some classes include field trips to other locations.
 - c. On occasion, class sessions may be extended beyond 3:30 p.m. to participate in field study.
3. Trainees are required to complete the following coursework outside of regular class hours:
 - a. Weekly reading (typically about 30 to 40 pages) from the Master Gardener Handbook and any other assigned materials, referencing of the UC Davis IPM website, and homework assignments.
 - b. A progressive garden planning project will be part of the weekly homework assignment. It will build on information learned in each class (Note: The garden planning project does not have an assignment each week.)
 - c. Work in an assigned group to prepare and present a Master Gardener Desk Problem.
 - d. Complete an open-book final exam.
Please note that Marin Master Gardeners research solutions to problems brought into the Help Desk. Much of this research is done using the computer and, therefore, word processing, internet research, and presentation software skills are highly desirable.
4. The time commitment for the Master Gardener training Program is estimated to average 15 hours per week including time spent in class.
5. The Marin Master Gardener Training Program supplies a course handbook and textbooks. Trainees will supply their own copy of the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, 2007 edition.
6. The UCCE requires all volunteers accepted into the Training Program to be fingerprinted by the Marin County Sheriff. **The deadline for fingerprinting is November 30, 2010.**
7. A fee of \$275 for the Training Program is due October 29, 2010 and is non-refundable. Additional miscellaneous expenses may be required during the training course. Scholarships are available based on financial need and payments may be made in installments.

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